

*Stated Meeting, March 19, 1869.*

Present, ten members.

JOHN C. CRESSON, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters accepting membership were received from C. L. Rütimeyer, dated Basel, February, 18th, and from J. Prestwich, dated Shoreham, near Seven-oaks, England, March 2, 1869.

A letter of envoy was received from the Meteorological Office of the Royal Society at London, dated Dec. 24, 1868.

Donations for the Library were received from the Meteorological Office of the Royal Society of London, from M. Chevalier, Membre de la Commission de l'Exposition Internationale de 1867 at Paris, from the London Board of Trade, from the Boston Natural History Society, from the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester, from the Editors of the American Journal of Arts and Sciences at New Haven, from Prof. Cook, State Geologist of New Jersey, at Newark, from Mr. Henry C. Carey, Mr. Pliny E. Chase, and the College of Pharmacy, at Philadelphia, and from the Smithsonian Institute, at Washington.

Commodore John Marston presented, for the cabinet, four fragments of painted pottery, dug up by him, early in the year 1861, from the soil of the Island of Sacrifices, near Vera Cruz, Mexico.

The principal piece is 5 inches long by 2 inches wide, a sort of doll, with a fillet over the head, and a painted white plain ribbon-like collar round the neck, from which seems to have depended six painted white and red tags, four on the breast, and one behind each shoulder. The fillet over the forehead is painted in alternate red and white sections. The skin of the forehead and nose, the region around the mouth, the lower parts of the ears, and the half-seen eyeballs, are painted the same dead white; the rest of the doll has been painted a deep red, much of which has worn off. Two banded bent arms can be traced down the sides and upon the breasts, ending in two white spots for hands. An attempt has been made to signify the left arm by a slight relief. The head has the Astec monument look, there being nothing but backhead and forehead. The eyes are half closed, and the upper teeth exposed by the drawing back of the upper lip. This gives the impression that it was intended to represent a corpse or

mummy. Two small holes show that the cylinder is hollow ; but they do not communicate.

One of the other three pieces is a whistle, made of a human head without neck, the aperture slanting up over the forehead. The cheeks are hugely swollen, and the mouth set to represent the act of blowing. The nose is colossal, and the whole thing full of that peculiar humor of Mexican art, which is so strikingly exhibited in the set of masks (?) which the Society has in its Poinsett Cabinet.

The other two fragments are very imperfect, and seem to have been pipe-stands, ornamented, the one with a bird's head, and the other with something like a calf's.

Judge Cadwalader read, by appointment, an obituary notice of Mr. Bancker, which was followed by remarks by Mr. E. K. Price, describing the consequences of the policy inaugurated by Mr. Bancker, as President of the Franklin Insurance Company, of holding a large number of small mortgages. To the encouragements and facilities which this policy affords mechanics and builders with small capital, and, therefore, to Mr. Bancker, the City of Philadelphia has been largely indebted for its rapid extension.

Dr. Emerson communicated a description of an ingenious and important improvement in Whitney's Cotton Gin (1793), made by Mr. R. R. Gwathmey, of Kentucky (1867), and already adopted by planters in the Southwestern States.

Whitney's gin requires the cotton to be picked by hand from the boll, before it can be ginned. Gwathmey's machine, by simply reversing the motion of the saws, rejects the hulls unbroken, and thereby increases the working capacity of a field hand fourfold, that is, from the old rate of five bales of (400 lbs.) per month to twenty.

Pending nominations Nos. 622 to 626 were read.

The Chairman of the Special Committee on the Letting or Selling of the Hall reported that the Committee desired the advice of the Society respecting price. In view of the small attendance of members, on motion, this subject was made the order of business for the next meeting, notice to be sent to all the members.

On motion of Prof. Trego, the subject of the Rittenhouse Clock was referred to the Curators, with power to act, reporting their action to the Society.

And the Society was adjourned.